

Project Narrative

Charles Miller House HP Overlay Zoning

The Charles Miller House at 6938 E. 1st Street was initiated for HP overlay zoning consideration by the City's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on September 14, 2006 following a public hearing. No development or change in use is proposed by the City or owner with this City-initiated case. The owner, Zebra Family Trust, Richard A. Funke, trustee, requested this recognition and supports the proposed HP designation.

The home was originally located on Indian School Road, east of Scottsdale Road on the land Charles Miller purchased from Winfield Scott in 1913. In the mid 1950s the home was moved to 75th Place, north of Thomas to save the wood framed Bungalow style home from demolition. Recently, when the property on 75th Place was proposed for rezoning and redevelopment to a higher residential density, the Charles Miller home was again threatened with demolition. Richard Funke stepped up and saved the home from demolition a second time by moving the home to its current location on 1st Street, west of Goldwater Boulevard. Richard Funke moved and renovated the home at his own expense and is now leasing the home to a business.

The Charles Miller House is historically significant for its association with an important person, Charles Miller and its association with the early settlement of Scottsdale nearly a century ago. Charles W. Miller was a prominent figure in Scottsdale in the early decades of the last century. The 80 acres he purchased from Winfield Scott, the founder of Scottsdale, was used for farming by his family and he built his family home on the north side of Indian School Road. The first electric company in Scottsdale was founded by Charles Miller, William Kimsey and E. O. Brown in 1918. In 1923 Charles Miller donated the land for the Scottsdale High School and he later served on the local school board. Charles Miller was also elected to serve in the state legislature. Miller Road is named after Charles Miller for his contribution to the early town building era of Scottsdale.

The house also represents a rare building type of early twentieth century wood framed Craftsman Bungalow style architecture. Several of the features of the building have been retained including its original form, design, materials and detailing, although the recent renovations replaced most of the original narrow wood siding and the roof. While local historic preservation efforts focus primarily on maintaining the exterior of historic buildings, many of the interior features characteristic of Craftsman style Bungalows are intact, including built-in cabinets, leaded glass cabinet doors, exposed wood ceiling beams and window seats.